

Title	In, Out, Shake it All About. What Politicians Forget About a Unified Europe
Type	Article
URL	https://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/id/eprint/15109/
Date	2016
Citation	Eden, Michael (2016) In, Out, Shake it All About. What Politicians Forget About a Unified Europe. Trebuchet Magazine.
Creators	Eden, Michael

Usage Guidelines

Please refer to usage guidelines at <http://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/policies.html> or alternatively contact ualresearchonline@arts.ac.uk.

License: Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives

Unless otherwise stated, copyright owned by the author

DOWNLOAD MAGAZINES



05: Art and Crime

PRINT MAGAZINES



04: The Body

SUBSCRIPTIONS



03: Art and Resistance

ART EVENTS

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
«	<	Nov 2019			>	»

UPCOMING

Ithell Colquhoun: Surrealism, Occultism & Sexuality
Watch This Space
A Celebration of Talk Talk and Mark Hollis
Bang Face Rave Weekend

In, Out, Shake it All About. What Politicians Forget About a Unified Europe

BEYOND THE FISCAL SPREADSHEETS AND THE CHEST-BEATING NATIONALISM, THERE ARE LESSER-REPORTED NUANCES TO THE EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP DEBATE. ESSAY

27/04/2016 Michael Eden Society



It is difficult to think outside of the parameters offered by politicians and media pundits regarding the coming vote on Europe.

Those limited parameters, for the most part, concentrate on two main strands: a) financial growth, with each side eager to convince us we are better off in or out depending on who you listen to, and b) security, which is often framed as border control and plays to the general xenophobic kneejerk of leafy suburbia with its backwoods fear of foreigners and what they'll take from us. Think UKIP. Unfortunately both these strands, both deeply drawn upon by the Stay as well as the Leave campaign are trite. Additionally, they attempt to appeal to our worst short term animal instincts: Greed, 'I want my four grand, thanks' and Fear, 'Keep em out, Nigel'. What to do?

'If the British Empire is fated to pass from life into history, we must hope it will not be by the slow process of dispersion and decay, but in some supreme exertion for freedom, for right and for truth,'

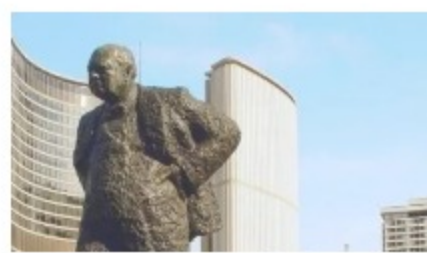
– Winston Churchill, 20 April 1939, Canada Club, London

Is there really nothing more at stake than whether we'll be governed by businessmen in Brussels and managed by David Cameron, or by slightly more nostalgic businessmen in London managed by Boris or Gove with Farage grinning from the sidelines? There is indeed far more at stake than this. Separately, the nations of Europe are small. Small compared with America, with China, with Russia or with India. These will be the powers which come to define our world in coming years, and stepping back from Europe means leaving global culture to those nations who must prioritise their interests, interests which will become ever more fraught as they compete for economic/military/cultural hegemony.

A strong Europe is an advocate for values that we British like to think we are forever defending against intrusion from outsiders. What if the only way to defend the national identities of European nations is not with stronger borders and trenchant nationalism, but with greater co-operation amongst the member nations, sharing economic, military and ecological problems (not to mention ethics and law)? I'm thinking here about managing scientific advancement and guaranteeing workers' rights.

The idea is certainly worthy of study, if it's not too huge a conceptual leap for politicians and voters alike to contemplate values for future existence which hinge neither around the interests of big business elites, nor the isolationist rantings of xenophobes. Maybe there are other reasons for a united Europe, reasons which can't be plotted on a fiscal spreadsheet? In the next essay of this series, we make the radical suggestion that workers' rights may be more healthily maintained within the framework of a European (as well as local and national) parliamentary whole, rather than left to the caprices of our current, Tory, government.

Image: Reliquary, golden bust of Charlemagne (Father of Europe, from whom all Europeans are said to be descended) wearing the Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire, with the German reichsadler embossed on the metal and the French fleur-de-lis embroidered on the fabric. Treasury of Aachen Cathedral



In, Out, Shake it All About. What Politicians Forget About a Unified Europe (Part Three)
12/05/2016
In "Society"

Racism Makes You Miserable
See, all that time we'd been worrying about how it feels to be on the receiving end of a racist or xenophobic rant, we should have been worrying
12/12/2011
In "News"



Empire's Ghost Pt. 3 : Scottish Nationalism
21/06/2014
In "Society"



About Michael Eden > 77 Articles

Michael Eden is the Arts Editor for Trebuchet Magazine, an artist and researcher working in London and the south east, his artistic practice is concentrated on painting and he divides his time between this and lecturing in art history and contextual studies.



« PREVIOUS
Born that Way? What Science Actually Knows about Sexual Orientation

NEXT »
Are You Gettin' It? The Effects of Frequent Sex (with your partner) on Relationships



BE THE FIRST TO COMMENT

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published.

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

☐ Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

eight - 7 =

☐ Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

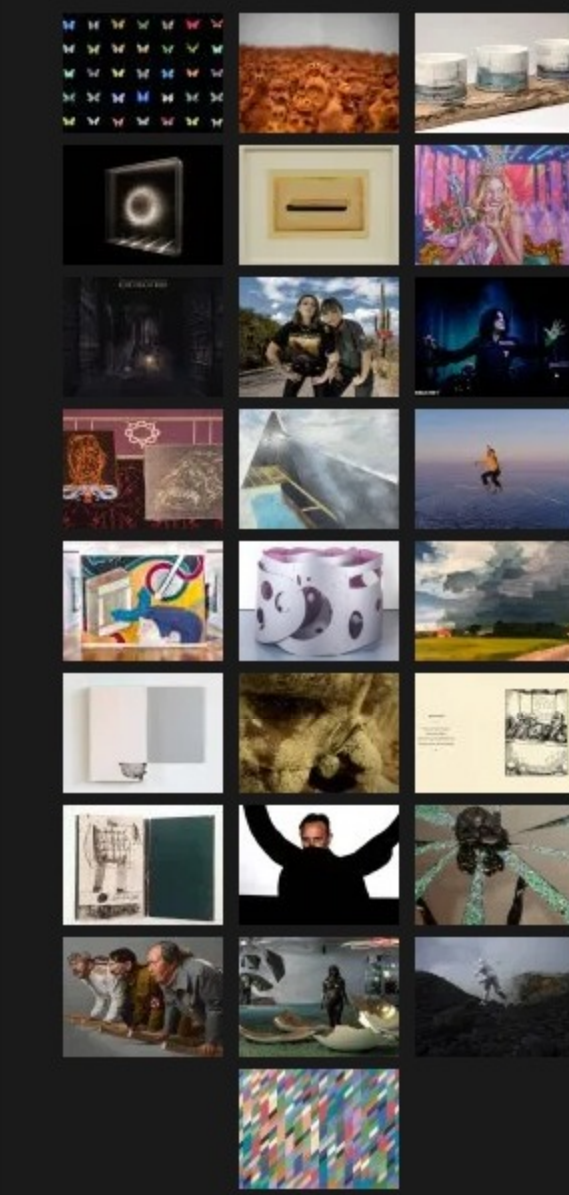
☐ Notify me of new posts by email.

POST COMMENT

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)

NEW CYCLES IN ART

- Awaken Imagined Still Lives
18/11/2019
- No Heroic Male Master
12/11/2019
- Jane Bustin's V - Tea Bowls (and Other Things) in Paris
31/10/2019
- Cyril de Commarque Interview
26/10/2019
- Modern Panic Celebrates 10th Anniversary
25/10/2019
- Artificialis at the Saatchi Gallery
24/10/2019
- Mark Leckey: O' Magic Power of Bleakness
17/10/2019
- Joker, a Film to Fall Out Over?
10/10/2019
- 1-54 African Contemporary Arts Fair 2019
09/10/2019
- William Kentridge In Praise of Shadows
03/10/2019



THE TREBUCHET

Trebuchet Magazine: New fine art for contemporary collectors and abundant creatives

TREBUCHET NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

MEDIA AND PUBLISHING



TAGS

- ACTIVISM AFRICA AMERICA ART
- BANDS DANCE DIY ELECTRONICA
- ENVIRONMENT EXHIBITIONS FESTIVALS
- FILM FOLK FOOD GALLERY GIGS
- HEALTH INDIE INTERVIEWS
- LITERATURE LIVE MAKE BETTER MUSIC
- MENTAL HEALTH METAL MUSIC
- NATURE PAINTING PHOTOGRAPHY
- POINTY HEADS POLITICS PROG
- PSYCHOLOGY PUNK RESEARCH ROCK
- SCIENCE SEX SOCIETY SONGWRITING
- STUPID HUMANS TECHNOLOGY TRAVEL
- UK USA WORK